

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 129713

LIMDIS, FOR HOLBROOKE AND GLEYSTEN ONLY

FOL RPT KUALA LUMPUR 4397 ACTION SECSTATE INFO JAKARTA 20 MAY 78
QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 4397

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, MY, US

SUBJ: MY DISCUSSION WITH PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN ONN

REF: STATE 125638

1. I MET WITH THE PRIME MINISTER FOR OVER AN HOUR MAY 19.
HE RECEIVED ME ALONE AND FOR READY REFERENCE HAD IN FRON OF HIM
A COPY OF THE VICE PRES'S HONOLULU SPEECH WHICH I HAD SENT HIM
EARLIER. OUR CONVERSATION COVERED HIS TALK WITH SUHARTO, FROM WHICH
HE RETURNED LAST EVEING, REFUGEES AND HUMAN RIGHT. (FOR LATTER
SUBJECTS SEE SEPTTEL) AT THE END OF THE CONVERSATION, KNOWING
THAT I AM PROCEEDING TO WASHINGTON ON CONSULATIONS SOON, HE
ASKED THAT I CONVEY HIS PERSONAL
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VEY HIS PERSONAL REGARDS TO THE PRESIDENT.

2. HUSSEIN SAID THAT SUHARTO HAD BEEN PLEASED WITH THE VICE
PRESIDENT'S VISIT PARTICULARLY BECAUSE THE VISIT AND THE
VICE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS SHOWED THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRA-
TION'S INTEREST AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE ASEAN REGION WERE
GROWING, AND THIS WAS A GOOD THING. NEVERTHELESS, HUSSEIN

CONTINUED, SUHARTO REMAINED CONCERNED THAT U.S. INTEREST AND INVOLVEMENT IN ASEAN CONTINUED TO BE DEMONSTRATED IN A PIECEMEAL FASHION WHEN COMPARED, FOR EXAMPLE, TO JAPAN'S COMMITMENT OF MAJOR CREDITS FOR ASEAN PROJECTS. SUHARTO HAD EXPRESSED TO HUSSEIN HIS VIEW THAT UNTIL THE U.S. MADE SOME COMPARABLE, CONCRETE AND DRAMATIC DEMONSTRATION OF SUPPORT FOR ASEAN, ITS BROADLY FORMULATED STATEMENTS OF GOOD INTENTIONS TOWARD ASEAN WOULD ALWAYS BE OPEN TO DOUBT. HUSSEIN WAS CAREFUL TO CREDIT THESE VIEWS TO SUHARTO, BUT FROM THIS CONVERSATION AND MY CONVERSATION WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER (REPORTED SEPARATELY) IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT MALAYSIA SHARES SUHARTO'S VIEWS.

3. HUSSEIN SAID THAT SUHARTO GAVE EVIDENCE OF FAR MORE CONCERN FOR INDONESIA'S INTERNAL SECURITY PROBLEMS THAN FOR ANY QUESTIONS OF AN EXTERNAL SECURITY THREAT. SUHARTO EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR MUSLIM FANATICS ON HIS RIGHT AS WELL AS FOR SUBVERSIVES AND COMMUNISTS ON HIS LEFT. HE TOLD HUSSEIN THAT WHILE HE PLANNED TO GO AHEAD AND RELEASE POLITICAL PRISONERS, HE WAS VERY MUCH CONCERNED THAT THEY WOULD REMAIN UNREPENTANT. HE ALSO CONTINUED TO FEAR PRC INFLUENCE IN INDONESIA'S CHINESE COMMUNITY AND TOLD HUSSEIN HE WOULD GO VERY SLOW IN NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH THE PRC. FOR THE SAME REASON, SUHARTO SAID HE WOULD GO EQUALLY SLOW IN RESPONDING TO LIBYA'S OVERTURES TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS BECAUSE OF LIBYA'S POTENTIAL INFLUENCE OVER INDONESIAN MUSLIM

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FANATICS. HUSSEIN NOTED THAT BECAUSE OF HIS CONCERN FOR INTERNAL SECURITY, SUHARTO APPEARED FAR MORE CONCERNED ABOUT PRC THAN SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA.

4. HUSSEIN SAID SUHARTO ASKED HIM WHAT MALAYSIA'S EXPERIENCE HAD BEEN WITH THE PRC EMBASSY IN KUALA LUMPUR. HUSSEIN TOLD SUHARTO THAT UP UNTIL A SHORT WHILE AGO HE HAD BELIEVED THAT THE PRC EMBASSY WAS BEHAVING CORRECTLY. HOWEVER, HE HAD RECENTLY BEEN BRIEFED ON EVIDENCE THAT THE PRC REPRESENTATIVES HERE WERE GRADUALLY MAKING CONTACTS WITH CHINESE ELEMENTS (HE MENTIONED PENANG) AND ESTABLISHING FRONT GROUPS, PARTICULARLY TRADING COMPANIES, TO PROMOTE TRADE LINKS WITH THE PRC. HE SAID THAT, EVEN MORE TROUBLING IS EVIDENCE THAT THE PRC EMBASSY WAS SEEKING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SOME OF THESE LOCAL FRONT GROUPS AS TO WHETHER TO ISSUE VISAS TO CERTAIN MALAYSIAN-CHINESE TO VISIT CHINA. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUERY, HUSSEIN CONFIRMED THAT THE MALAYSIANS STILL HAD NO EVIDENCE OF EXTERNAL SUPPORT FOR THEIR COMMUNIST INSURGENTS. HE DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT ONE CASE HAD COME TO HIS ATTENTION RECENTLY OF A MALAYSIAN-CHINESE COMMUNIST TERRORIST, A COMMUNICATOR, WHO HAD SURRENDERED AND HAD SAID HE HAD

BEEN TRAINED LONG AGO IN PEKING AND HAD
GAINED "PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE" A NUMBER OF YEARS AGO IN VIETNAM.
DURING THE VIETNAM WAR.
MILLER

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